

1. An inflatable curtain comprising:
a first panel having at least one first pleat, the first pleat constructed such that
when the inflatable curtain is inflated with inflation gas, the first pleat opens into at least
one first bulge that changes the deployment trajectory of the inflatable curtain; and
5 a second panel that is attached to the first panel.

2. An inflatable curtain as in claim 1 wherein the first bulge is designed to
interact with a portion of a vehicle interior.

10 3. An inflatable curtain as in claim 1 wherein the first pleat opens into the
first bulge prior to the curtain being completely filled with the inflation gas.

4. An inflatable curtain as in claim 1 wherein the first bulge is designed such
that the deploying airbag will clear a trim panel on a vehicle interior.

15 5. An inflatable curtain as in claim 1 wherein the first pleat is formed by
folding the first panel.

20 6. An inflatable curtain as in claim 1 wherein the first panel is attached to the
second panel via sewing.

7. An inflatable curtain as in claim 1 wherein the first panel is attached to the
second panel via adhesive bonding.

8. An inflatable curtain as in claim 1 wherein the first pleat opens downwards when the inflatable curtain is installed onto a vehicle interior.

5 9. An inflatable curtain as in claim 1 wherein the first pleat opens upwards when the inflatable curtain is installed onto a vehicle interior.

10 10. An inflatable curtain as in claim 1 wherein the first pleat spans the length of the first panel.

11. An inflatable curtain as in claim 1 further comprising at least one second pleat added to the second panel, the second pleat constructed such that when the inflatable curtain inflates, the second pleat opens into at least one second bulge.

15 12. An inflatable curtain as in claim 11 wherein the second bulge changes the deployment trajectory of the inflatable curtain.

20 13. An inflatable curtain as in claim 11 wherein the second pleat is formed by folding the second panel.

14. An inflatable curtain as in claim 1 wherein the first pleat spans a portion of the length of the first panel.

15. An inflatable curtain comprising:
a first panel;
a second panel that is attached to the first panel; and
at least one first pleat added to the first panel and at least one second pleat added
5 to the second panel, the first pleat and the second pleat constructed such that when the
inflatable curtain is inflated with inflation gas, the first pleat opens into at least one first
bulge and the second pleat opens into at least one second bulge, the first pleat and the
second pleat positioned such that the first bulge and the second bulge change the
deployment trajectory of the inflatable curtain.

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16. An inflatable curtain as in claim 15 wherein the first bulge and the second
bulge are designed to interact with a portion of a vehicle interior.

17. An inflatable curtain as in claim 15 wherein the first pleat and the second
15 pleat open into the first bulge and the second bulge prior to the curtain being completely
filled with the inflation gas.

18. An inflatable curtain as in claim 15 wherein the first bulge is designed
such that the deploying airbag will clear a trim panel on a vehicle interior.

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19. An inflatable curtain as in claim 15 wherein the first pleat is formed by
folding the first panel.

20. An inflatable curtain as in claim 15 wherein the second pleat is formed by folding the second panel.

21. An inflatable curtain as in claim 15 wherein the first panel is attached to the second panel via sewing.

22. An inflatable curtain as in claim 15 wherein the first panel is attached to the second panel via adhesive bonding.

23. An inflatable curtain as in claim 15 wherein the first pleat opens upwards and the second pleat opens downwards when the inflatable curtain is installed onto a vehicle interior.

24. An inflatable curtain as in claim 15 wherein the first pleat opens downwards and the second pleat opens upwards when the inflatable curtain is installed onto a vehicle interior.

25. An inflatable curtain as in claim 15 wherein the first pleat is aligned with the second pleat.

26. An inflatable curtain as in claim 15 wherein the first pleat is offset from the second pleat.

27. An inflatable airbag as in claim 16 wherein the first pleat spans the length of the first panel and the second pleat spans the length of the second panel.

28. An inflatable airbag as in claim 16 wherein the first pleat spans a portion of the length of the first panel and the second pleat spans a portion of the length of the second panel.

29. An inflatable airbag as in claim 16 wherein the first pleat spans a portion of the length of the first panel.

30. An inflatable curtain as in claim 16 wherein the second pleat spans a portion of the length of the second panel.

31. A method for changing the deployment trajectory of an inflatable curtain comprising:

obtaining an inflatable curtain comprising a first panel and a second panel, the second panel being attached to the first panel; and

5 adding at least one first pleat to the first panel, the first pleat constructed such that when the inflatable curtain inflates, the first pleat opens into at least one first bulge that changes the deployment trajectory of the inflatable curtain.

32. A method as in claim 31 wherein the first bulge is designed to interact is
10 designed to interact with a portion of a vehicle interior.

33. A method as in claim 31 wherein the first pleat opens into the first bulge prior to the curtain being completely inflated.

15 34. A method as in claim 31 wherein the first bulge is designed such that the deploying airbag will clear a trim panel on a vehicle interior.

35. A method as in claim 31 wherein the first pleat is formed by folding the first panel.
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36. A method as in claim 31 wherein the inflatable curtain further comprises at least one second pleat added to the second panel, the second pleat constructed such that when the inflatable curtain inflates, the second pleat opens into at least one second bulge.

37. A method as in claim 36 wherein the second bulge changes the deployment trajectory of the inflatable curtain.

5 38. A method as in claim 36 wherein the second pleat is formed by folding the second panel.